

§§ 4280.166–4280.169

to, processing and servicing requirements, as applicable, as described in paragraphs (f)(1) through (f)(3) of this section.

(1) All other provisions of §§ 4280.101 through 4280.111 apply to the combined funding request.

(2) All other provisions of §§ 4280.112 through 4280.121 apply to the grant portion of the combined funding request.

(3) All other provisions of §§ 4280.122 through 4280.160 apply to the guaranteed loan portion of the combined funding request.

§§ 4280.166–4280.169 [Reserved]

RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY GRANTS

§ 4280.170 Applicant eligibility.

To be eligible for a renewable energy system feasibility study grant under this subpart, the applicant must be an agricultural producer or a rural small business, as defined in § 4280.103, and must be the prospective owner of the renewable energy system for which the feasibility study grant is sought.

§ 4280.171 Project eligibility.

Only renewable energy system projects that meet the requirements specified in this section are eligible for feasibility study grants under this subpart. The project for which the feasibility study grant is sought shall:

(a) Be for the purchase, installation, expansion, or other energy-related improvement of a renewable energy system located in a State, as defined in § 4280.103;

(b) Be for a facility located in a rural area if the applicant is a rural small business, or in a rural or non-rural area if the applicant is an agricultural producer. If the agricultural producer's facility is in a non-rural area, then the feasibility study can only be for a renewable energy system on integral components of or directly related to the facility, such as vertically integrated operations, and are part of and co-located with the agriculture production operation;

(c) Be for technology that is pre-commercial or commercially available, and that is replicable;

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(d) Not have had a feasibility study already completed for it with Federal and/or State assistance; and

(e) The applicant has a place of business in a State.

§ 4280.172 Application eligibility provisions.

(a) Applications for industry-level feasibility studies, also known as feasibility study templates or guides, are not eligible because the assistance is not provided to a specific project.

(b) Applications must be from the prospective owner(s) of the renewable energy system for which the feasibility study grant is sought. Applications from other entities (e.g., entities that would be conducting the feasibility study and are not the prospective owners) will not be accepted.

(c) Applications can be submitted for a modification to an existing renewable energy system (e.g., for the expansion portion of an existing wind farm).

(d) Applications cannot be submitted in a Fiscal Year for an RES project if an RES application for the same renewable energy system is submitted in that same Fiscal Year and vice versa.

§ 4280.173 Grant funding for feasibility studies.

(a) *Maximum grant amount.* The maximum amount of grant funds that will be made available for an eligible feasibility study project under this subpart to any one recipient will not exceed \$50,000 or 25 percent of the total eligible project cost of the study, whichever is less. Eligible project costs are specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Eligible project costs.* Only post-application costs will be considered eligible. Eligible project costs for renewable energy system feasibility studies shall be specific to the completion of the feasibility study (refer to Appendix E of this subpart for information on the content of a feasibility study) including, but not limited to, the items listed in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(3) of this section.

(1) Resource assessment;

(2) Transmission study; and

(3) Environmental study.

(c) *Ineligible project costs.* Ineligible project costs for renewable energy system feasibility studies include, but are not limited to:

(1) Costs associated with selection of engineering, architectural, or environmental services;

(2) Designing, bidding, or contract development for the proposed facility;

(3) Permitting and other licensing costs required to construct the facility; and

(4) Any goods or services provided by a person or entity who has a conflict of interest as provided in § 4280.106.

(d) *Time limit.* The grantee will have 2 years from the date of the grant agreement to provide the Agency with a complete and acceptable feasibility study and to request disbursement of the funds. If the grantee does not submit to the Agency a complete and acceptable feasibility study within this 2 year period, the grant is subject to termination by and reimbursement to the Agency according to Departmental regulations.

§§ 4280.174–4280.175 [Reserved]

§ 4280.176 Feasibility study grant applications—content.

Applications for feasibility study grants must include a Table of Contents with clear pagination and chapter identification and shall contain the information specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section and shall be presented in the same order.

(a) *Forms, documents, and certifications.* The application shall contain the forms and documents specified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(11) of this section.

(1) Form SF-424.

(2) Form SF-424A, “Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs” (as applicable).

(3) Form SF-424B, “Assurances—Non-Construction Programs” (as applicable).

(4) Form SF-424C (as applicable).

(5) Form SF-424D (as applicable).

(6) Form RD 1940-20 (as applicable).

(7) Except for sole proprietors, a copy of legal organizational documents.

(8) A proposed work plan, which includes:

(i) A brief description of the proposed system the feasibility study will evaluate;

(ii) A description of the feasibility study to be conducted. The contents of an acceptable feasibility study are identified in Appendix E of this subpart. Applicants shall require those conducting the feasibility study to consider and document within the feasibility study the important environmental factors within the planning area and the potential environmental impacts of the project for which the feasibility study is being conducted, as well as the alternatives considered;

(iii) The timeframe for completion of the feasibility study;

(iv) The experience of the company/individual completing the feasibility study, including the number of similar projects the company/individual has performed, the number of years the company has been performing a similar service, and corresponding resumes; and

(v) The source and amount of other project funds needs to be clearly identified. Agency approved written documentation/confirmation from any third party committing a specific amount of such funds is required. Documentation includes such items as bank statements, lender commitment letters, and so forth;

(9) A certification that the applicant has not received any other Federal or State assistance for a feasibility study for the subject renewable energy system.

(10) If the applicant is a rural small business, certification that the feasibility study grant will be for a renewable energy system project that is located in a rural area.

(11) The applicant’s Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number (except for individuals).

(b) *Financial information for gross income or size determination.* The application shall contain sufficient financial information to allow the Agency to determine the agricultural producer’s percentage of gross income derived from agricultural operations or the rural small business’ size, as applicable. All information submitted under